

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 14333 111630Z  
ACTION FAA-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 MCT-01 DOTE-00 SY-05  
L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /035 W  
-----039160 120011Z /12  
R 111127Z OCT 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6641  
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMEMBASSY DACCA

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAIR, IN  
SUBJECT: JAL HIJACKING: SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT INDIAN AIRPORTS

REF: (A) STATE 238472, (B) BOMBAY 2454

1. THE GOI HAS NOT INSTALLED METAL DETECTOR DEVICES AT ITS FOUR MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS UP TO THIS TIME. ACCORDING TO A LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF FOREIGN ELECTRONICS FIRMS, THE GOI, ALTHOUGH RECOGNIZING THE NEED, HAD DECIDED NOT TO IMPORT EQUIPMENT WHICH WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE, BUT HAD CALLED UPON INDIAN ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY TO DEVELOP INDIGENOUS MODELS INSTEAD. HE NATURALLY DOUBTED THAT LOCALLY PRODUCED EQUIPMENT WOULD BE RELIABLE.

2. IN CONVERSION WITH ECON COUNSELLOR LAST MONTH, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION (DGCA) B.S. GIDWANI CONFIRMED THAT GOI WAS WORKING ON GETTING ELECTRONIC SECURITY EQUIPMENT, BUT WAS INDEFINITE AS TO TIMING.

3. OUTLINE OF ABOVE WAS CONFIRMED BY MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION KAUSHIK IN MEETING WITH PRESS LAST WEEK. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS OF HIS REMARKS, KAUSHIK SAID THAT ARRANGEMENTS

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 14333 111630Z

WERE BEING MADE TO INSTALL X-RAY AND METAL DETECTOR EQUIPMENT AT ALL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS. THE EQUIPMENT IS BEING MANUFACTURED BY THE STATE-OWNED ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD. AS FOR THE TIMEFRAME, ONE PAPER PUT IT THIS WAY: "IT WAS HOPED THAT THE REQUISITE INSTRUMENTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE WITHIN SIX MONTHS". ACCORDING TO ANOTHER PAPER, THE DEMAND FOR X-RAY EQUIPMENT GENERATED BY THE HI-JACKING TO LAHORE LAST YEAR WAS "TURNED DOWN BECAUSE

IT WAS TOO EXPENSIVE. AFTER THE LATEST INCIDENT, HOWEVER, THE UNION GOVT IS PREPARED TO TAKE NO CHANCES". WHILE INCLUDED IN THE ACCOUNT OF KAUSHIK'S PRESS INTERVIEW, THIS PROBABLY REFLECTS THE REPORTER'S VIEWS RATHER THAN THE MINISTER'S.

4. AS THE EMBASSY REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR (NEW DELHI 13775), THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY AT THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORZA IS NOT CLEARLY ESTABLISHED. WHILE THE DGCA CLAIMS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY MATTERS IN INDIA, THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS LIES WITH THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (IAAI). THIS INCLUDES PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECURITY PRACTICES. THE ACTUAL CONDUCT OF SECURITY SEARCHES, HOWEVER, IS CARRIED OUT BY POLICE OFFICIALS PROVIDED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES WHERE THE AIRPORTS ARE LOCATED. WE EXPECT THE GOI'S ANNOUNCED ENQUIRY INTO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE APPARENT SECURITY SLIP-UP IN BOMBAY WILL BE LONG IN REACHING A CONCLUSION.  
GOHEEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 238472, 77 BOMBAY 2454  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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